

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on June 29, 2006.

None of the claims are amended, canceled, or added. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 9 and 15 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,844.

Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 16 and 17 were rejected under a non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 8 of U. S. Patent No. 6,687,844 in view of Kono et al. (U.S. 6,489,819).

Applicant does not admit that Kono et al. is prior art with respect to claim 2, 3, 10, 11, 16 and 17. Further, a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(b) (IV) is enclosed herewith to obviate the non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance of claims 1, 2, 3, 9-11, and 15-17.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 and 5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1. Since claim 1 is allowable, as discussed above, Applicant believes that claims 4 and 5, as written in the current form, are also allowable.

Claims 6-8, 12-14 and 18-20 were allowed.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 6-8, 12-14 and 18-20.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney ((612) 349-9592) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

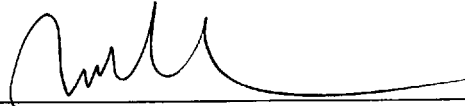
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Date

29 September 2006

By



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 29th day of September 2006.

Name

Amy Moriarty

Signature

